

Page 10, line 12, after "3 cm.", insert the following sentence: -- The take-off device 106

consists of a pair of rollers 107 which are in contact with the rod 13 and which rotate in opposite directions thereby drawing the rod 13 out from the softened area of the quartz glass cylinder 12.--

Page 14, after line 13, insert the following:

-- Fig. 5 is similar to Fig. 1. In both figures, identical designation numbers are used for designating the same means and parts of the apparatus. However, in Fig. 5, the following parts of the apparatus of Fig. 1 are replaced:

4, 5, 17 replaced by 107

8 replaced by 108

6 replaced by 109

7 replaced by 110

In Fig. 5, heating means in the form of a pair of hydrogen-oxygen burners 107 are shown, which face each other in the area of the drawing bulb 14. The burners 107 allow a local heating of the drawing bulb 14 in two opposite deformation areas. The burners 107 are fixed to a ring 108, which allows rotation of the burners 107 around 180° of a circle around center axis 11. The burner gas is provided to the burners 107 via gas lines 109. The flow rate of the burner gas is adjusted by the means of flow meters 110 as a function of the size of a roundness deviation. Simultaneously, the position of the burners 107 around the circumference of the drawing bulb 14 is automatically controlled by the control device 9 on the basis of the determined location of the ^{largest} ~~smallest~~ outside diameter of the rod 13.-